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The average cost of drilling and equipping oil wells is estimated at over \$20,000 each, but so many wells prove non-productive that the average return per well is said to be only \$9000. Thus it will be seen that most oil wells do not pay and investors who buy oil stock do so with more chances of losing than winning even when dealing with honest companies.

ONE observer at the San Francisco convention said the state leaders among the delegates felt that there was small chance of democratic success in this year's campaign and it mattered little who was nominated. This being the case, now that the conventions are over, the country may go ahead and elect Harding.

An extraordinary land boom has taken place at Buhl, southern Idaho. Land bought a year ago for \$150 an acre has recently sold for \$580 an acre, according to advices received. Exceptional crops this year are expected to still further inflate realty values in that locality.

CARELESS use of the small fire-cracker caused so many fires in Spokane this week that the restrictions already against other more dangerous pyrotechnic goods are to be stretched to entirely prohibit these "harmless" little bombs also.

It seems that the democratic convention decided that Mac wouldn't "do".

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Wenatchee cherries are being shipped east at the rate of six carloads daily.

A co-operative grocery store at Pasco has failed after several years' business.

The United States has lifted the trade blockade against Russia, excepting in materials for war purposes.

The immigration committee of the national house of representatives is at San Francisco holding hearings on Japanese and Chinese immigration.

A "committee of 48" is at Chicago planning the organization, tomorrow, of a third political party opposed to the republicans and democrats.

Citizens of a province in Japan from which many emigrants to California come have decided to protest to the people of California against proposed anti-Japanese legislation.

Germany has 12,000 cannon and 50,000 machine guns which the allied conference, in session at Spa, demands shall be destroyed immediately. The German representatives ask to be allowed to destroy them at the rate of 1000 a month.

C. J. Breier of Lewiston, owner of a chain of Hub stores, is opening a men's furnishing and dry goods store in Coeur d'Alene.

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THE QUESTION

By MARY POWER.

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It was the impatient jingle of bells without that caused Aubrey to hasten with the final touches to her toilette. A moment later she emerged from the house and swung her lithe young body into the sleigh beside her brother.

"We'll have to hurry, Ken," she advised, tucking the robe about her. "I've exactly ten minutes."

"Well, if you don't take the cake," he sputtered; "here I've been waiting—"

"Please, Kenneth, don't scold," wheedled Aubrey. "Gracious!" in sudden alarm. "I've forgotten my notes—no, I haven't, either," evidently relieved.

"H'm!" Kenneth cast a scornful glance at the trig figure beside him. "What's the subject this afternoon, socialism, woman suffrage, or—or—better babies?" he grinned.

Aubrey flushed. "The eternal question—Should Woman Propose—Choose the Mate Rather—"

Kenneth gave a prolonged whistle. "Going to take advantage of leap year, eh?" he chuckled. "You're—affirmative?"

Aubrey shook her head. "No real lady proposes," acidly.

"Huh, nine-tenths of 'em do," vouchsafed Kenneth. "That is, subtly."

Aubrey flashed him a look of withering scorn. "One couldn't expect you—a mere child—to understand," she said frigidly.

The "mere child" grinned. "I promised to call at Ellen Colby's," said Aubrey; "mind you're back in time."

A moment later they stopped at the headquarters of the Girls' club. Entering, Aubrey swept down the aisle and daintily took her place on the platform.

The debate was a success. Aubrey's opponent, a fair-haired, languid girl of twenty, expounded her views on the "eternal question" in well couched language. Aubrey, on the other hand, took the house by storm when, in concluding her remarks, she said, with flushed cheek and sparkling eye:

"No girl with an ounce of dignity in her makeup could, with honor, ask a man to marry her." And then, thrillingly:

"Our grandmothers couldn't, our dear mothers wouldn't. I—you—we—oh!" spiritedly, "it shouldn't be done!"

Kenneth, ensconced in a rear seat, was interested in spite of himself. He could not resist one last sarcastic fling, however as he dropped Aubrey at Ellen Colby's door.

"I say, Aubrey," he cautioned, "hadn't you better give Ellen a bit of advice? She and Floyd have been courting for ages. They say he hasn't ever mentioned marriage. If you don't watch out she'll upset your pet tradition by proposing herself. Time's ripe" he added maliciously. "Seeing she's Roger's sister, you should—" he shot a meaning glance at her and drove away.

Ascending the stairs to the Colby flat Aubrey frowned, cogitating on Kenneth's insinuations.

"Dear," Ellen was saying, her voice all queer and trembly-like, "if Roger and Aubrey get married this year, I'll go to you at Christmastide. I should like to be a Christmas bride."

Aubrey waited no longer, but stole quietly away, a queer little ache in her throat. It was twilight when she stumbled over her own threshold. The fragrant odor of a cigar told her Roger was there ahead of her, smoking in the dark. Roger often waited for her like that. Throwing her wraps aside, she tiptoed to the hall portieres and pulled them together.

"Roger," she called, softly, and as he came eagerly forward, "I want to ask you something—no, please stay there on the other side of the portieres. For one breath-taking instant she paused, then:

"Roger, do you love me—heaps?" tremulously.

"Why, Aubrey, of course—heaps and heaps and—" Roger's hands, fumbling there on the other side of the portieres, suddenly thrust themselves through.

"Roger, has it ever occurred to you that Ellen and Floyd—might be waiting—for us—to—couldn't we—at Easter, perhaps—" breathlessly, blush-

ing furiously there in the darkness in spite of herself.

"Aubrey," he said sternly, "are you—joking?"

"Why, no," Aubrey laughed a bit shakily. "I'm merely taking advantage of the season," glibly. And then, eternal feminine all over, she gave a little dry sob and hid her burning face against his shoulder. From there, shyly: "Maybe Ellen and Floyd could plan on Christmas if we—Mercy!" as a low chuckle from beyond the portieres smote the air.

"Yes it's Ken," said Roger, dryly. "He was dozing when you came in. But catch him to miss anything," he growled. Aubrey darted forward and switched on the lights.

A youth of nineteen, or thereabouts, a "mere child," whose long, lanky frame draped the top of a luxurious leather davenport, arose, blinked a bit, then stretched himself lazily.

"Evenin', folks," he drawled with a mischievous quirk at the corners of his mouth. "Gee, I had the funniest dream," he yawned. "I dreamed some sweet, young thing was proposing to me—taking advantage, as it were—oh, all right, Roger," at that worthy's threatening gesture. "Anyway, greetings of the season—er—er—congratulations, rather," and, grinning like a Cheshire cat, Kenneth sauntered from the room.

Loss of Appetite.

As a general rule there is nothing serious about a loss of appetite, and if you skip a meal or only eat two meals a day for a few days you will soon have a relish for your meals when meal time comes. Bear in mind that at least five hours should always elapse between meals so as to give the food ample time to digest and the stomach a period of rest before a second meal is taken. Then if you eat no more than you crave and take a reasonable amount of outdoor exercise every day you will not need to worry about your appetite. When the loss of appetite is caused by con-



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Rathdrum, Idaho.

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